

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A presentation imaging system for imaging machine readable information on an object, comprising:

a processor;

an imaging device, coupled to the processor for detecting an object within a field of view and imaging the object; and

a light source connected to the processor which projects a structured beam at a first intensity to define an imaging area generally co-extensive with the field of view and, upon detection of the object, the processor signals the light source to project the structured beam at a second, higher intensity.

2. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, wherein the light source has first, second and third operating modes, the first operating mode being the first intensity that has a low power consumption, the second operating mode being the second, higher intensity for imaging the object, and the third operating mode being an operator acknowledgment mode wherein the processor at least one of changes an intensity and blinks the light source off.

3. The presentation imaging system of claim 2, wherein the light intensity settings are controlled by the processor.

4. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, wherein a second color light signals notification of successful imaging of the machine readable information on the object.

5. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, further comprising an audible or visual signal generator connected to the processor which activates upon successful imaging of the machine readable information on the object.

6. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, further comprising a reflector having at least a first opening and a second opening, the first opening providing a path for the imaging device to receive images through the reflector and the second opening providing a path for the sensor to detect the object.

7. The presentation imaging system of claim 8, wherein the reflector is a mirror positioned at an angle of about 45° to the axis.

8. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, wherein the imaging device further includes a lens coupled to the imaging device which utilizes distance data provided by the sensor for automatic focusing.

9. The presentation imaging system of claim 1, wherein the imaging device includes a three-dimensional image sensing apparatus which utilizes quantum efficiency modulation to produce distance data.